

We just read in the April 2016, Drovers magazine that EVERY HOUR 50 U.S. farm acres are lost to development!! Scary!!!! We don't want our land to be part of those stats!

Our biggest concern is the way our farming practices have changed and how safety is going to be the biggest factor. We seldom have 10 acre fields anymore, they are now 40 acres and larger to make the farm more efficient and profitable. The problem is with the raised railroad track coming thru it will split the corn/bean fields back up to smaller parcels. Also, my son or I will have to cross, unmarked railroad crossings with equipment that will only go so fast and most of our equipment is longer than a semi in length. We will also have to cross the tracks not once but 20 to 30 times in one day with a grain cart to load the semi truck that will now have to sit on a busy road. A lot of our farming is done at night and that may hinder our judgment at how fast the train will be coming if we go to cross.

Drainage is another problem that we will be facing if the track would go through. Back in the 50's and 60's, when my dad hand dug miles of drainage tile in our fields, he never would have imagined that there was ever going to be a railroad track to obstruct it. If these tiles are crushed or broken it will create a major problem that will cost me thousands of dollars to re-tile my fields.

My great-great-great grandfather, William Dye bought our land from the federal government in 1837. Half of the farm has always been in the family and the other half was brought back into the family in the 1940's. Now, the railroad is trying to split it in half again. My son is planning to take over the farm and it would be a shame to split it up.

Having lived here most of my life and enjoying the peace and quiet of the countryside, we will now have to deal with the noise, vibrations and pollution that will be generated by the rail traffic. It will also be very disruptive to a good nights sleep, which is needed after a long day working in the fields.

We are also concerned about the historical aspects of the area. Within a mile of our farm and the proposal track, we have several ancient Indian mounds. It is not uncommon to find Indian relics in our fields. It would be a shame to destroy this 2000 year-old history.

We also have read where they are wanting to route the freight that carries hazardous materials on these tracks because they don't want to take it thru populated areas.....well, does that mean our lives aren't as important as theirs?? Just wondering????

Last but definitely not least, our grandchildren would have to cross the track EVERY TIME they come to the farm as they live the same distance as us from the proposed track except on the other side. Our disabled niece loves to ride her bike to the farm in the summer but I'm sure that would be discouraged if the train goes thru. We love our family, friends and community and we beg of you to not allow this to change our lives to what we all know isn't the "better"!!! Thank you!